



12

# HOUSE of SECRETS

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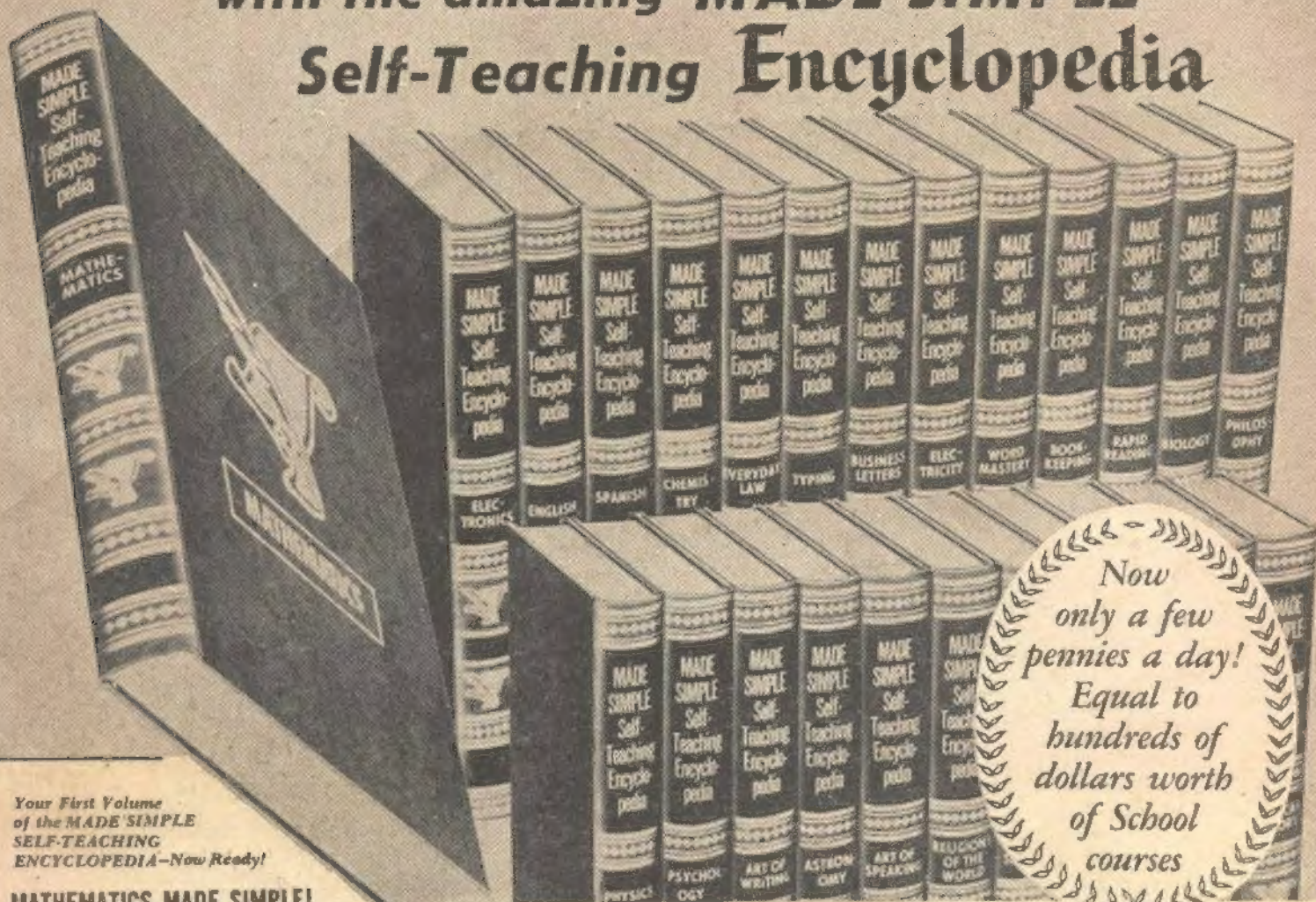
NO. 59

THE LANGLEY CURSE  
HAS INHABITED MARK'S  
BODY! ONLY ONE WAY  
TO SAVE OURSELVES--  
**DESTROY HIM!**

**"The DEMON SPIRIT  
THAT INVADED  
MARK MERLIN!"**



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# MARK MERLIN

## SLEUTH OF THE SUPERNATURAL

TIME AND AGAIN, **MARK MERLIN** HAS PITTED CUNNING AND COURAGE AGAINST THE FORMLESS, NAMELESS THREATS OF THE SUPERNATURAL! BUT NEVER HAD HIS MIND AND NERVE BEEN SO SEVERELY TESTED AS THEY WERE AGAINST...

### *The DEMON SPIRIT THAT INVADED MARK MERLIN!*

HELP ME,  
MERLIN! THE  
LANGLEY CURSE  
HAS GOT ME!

HOLD ON,  
PHILIP! ONE MORE  
MINUTE AND IT WILL  
BE ONE A.M. --  
AND YOU'LL BE  
SAFE!

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- MERLIN -





THE LIGHTS BURN  
LATE IN MARK  
MERLIN'S BROOD-  
ING MANSION  
ATOP MYSTERY  
HILL...

... ILLUMINATING AN  
INTERESTING MEETING..

WE TWO ARE COUSINS--  
MEMBERS OF THE  
LANGLEY FAMILY. HE'S  
PHILIP AND I'M  
MARTIN. WE'RE  
FACED WITH A  
DIFFICULT  
PROBLEM!



YOUR  
LETTER SAID  
YOU'RE BOTH ABOUT  
TO INHERIT A VAST  
FORTUNE. THAT'S  
NOT MUCH OF A  
PROBLEM!

LET ME EXPLAIN! OUR FAMILY HISTORY  
BEGAN SOME 1,000 YEARS AGO IN  
ENGLAND, WHERE I STILL LIVE. IN  
FACT, MARTIN WAS AN  
UTTER STRANGER  
TO ME UNTIL I  
ARRIVED  
HERE THIS  
WEEK!



OF COURSE, MARTIN AND I  
KNEW OF EACH OTHER AND  
THAT WE WERE THE LAST  
REMAINING DIRECT  
DESCENDANTS OF  
SEGEWICK, EARL OF  
LANGLEY. HE WAS THE  
OLD RUFFIAN WHO  
STARTED ALL OF  
THIS CENTURIES  
AGO!



"SEGEWICK,  
A MASTER  
SWORDSMAN  
AND  
PLUNDERER,  
LED HIS  
PRIVATE  
ARMY FROM  
ONE PROFITABLE  
VICTORY TO  
THE NEXT..."

LOOK WELL, MY WARRIORS,  
HOW THESE COWARDS FLEE AT  
THE SIGHT OF MY SWORD!  
FOLLOW ME--THERE'S GOLD  
APLENTY BEHIND  
THESE WALLS!





"DESPITE HIS ILL-GOTTEN WEALTH, SEDGEWICK COULD NOT BUY THE YEARS..."



THOU ART DYING, SEDGEWICK! AS THY OLDEST RELATION, I'VE COME TO CLAIM THE FAMILY FORTUNE



NAY, MORDEN! THOU ART NO NEPHEW OF MINE! I'VE ALWAYS KNOWN THY CLAIM WAS FALSE-- AND THOU SHALT HAVE NONE OF MY GOLD!

"NEAR DEATH THAT NIGHT, SEDGEWICK STAGGERED OUT INTO THE WOODS..."



EARTH, EARTH, OPEN TO ME! HIDE THIS GOLD WITHIN THEE!

"IT'S SAID, THE EARTH SPLIT AT THESE WORDS..."



THE EARTH SHALL HIDE MY FORTUNE BEYOND REACH UNTIL 100 YEARS FROM THIS NIGHT, WHEN IT WILL SPLIT OPEN TO REVEAL THE GOLD TO MY REMAINING HEIRS! BUT SHALL ANY OTHER THAN A LANGLEY CLAIM IT, MY CURSE SHALL CLAIM HIM!



"NO SOONER DID THE EARTH CLOSE AND SEDGEWICK LEAVE THAN A SHADOWY FIGURE EMERGED FROM AMONG THE TREES..."



SO THAT IS SEDGEWICK'S PLAN TO DENY ME HIS WEALTH! BUT I HAVE A SCHEME OF MY OWN!

"MORDEN'S SCHEME WAS A MONSTROUS ONE..."

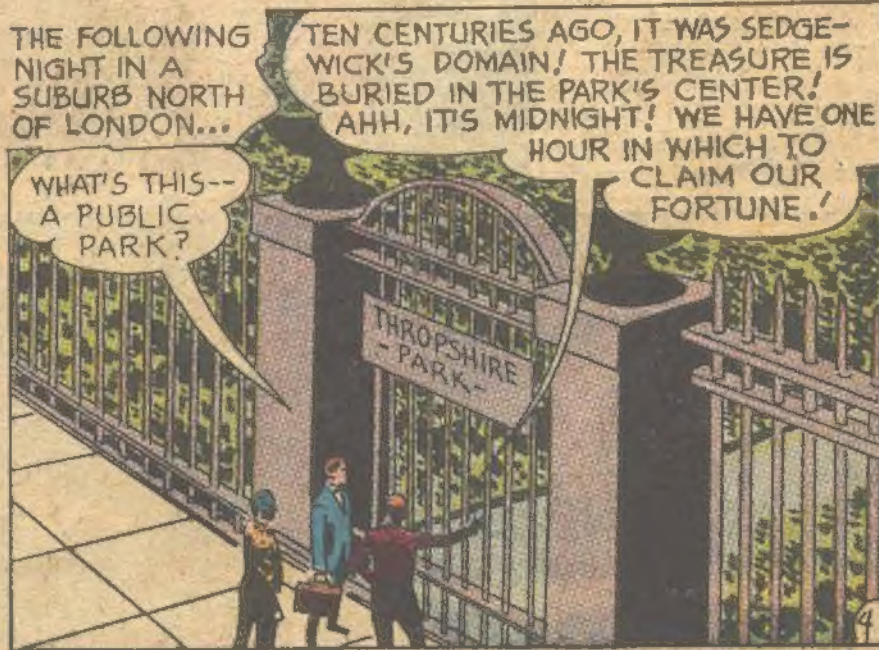
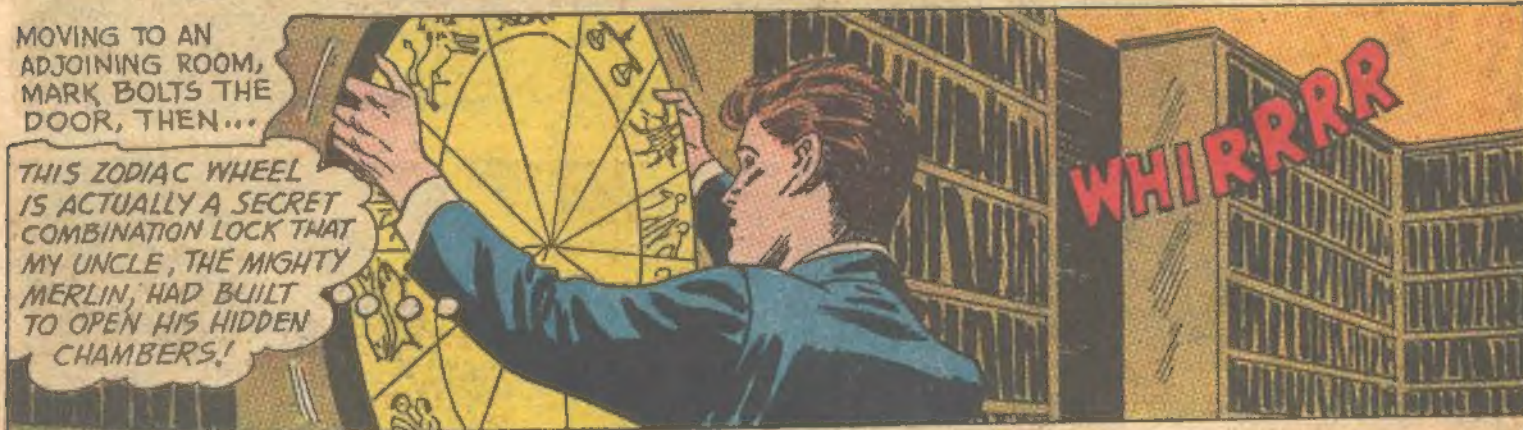
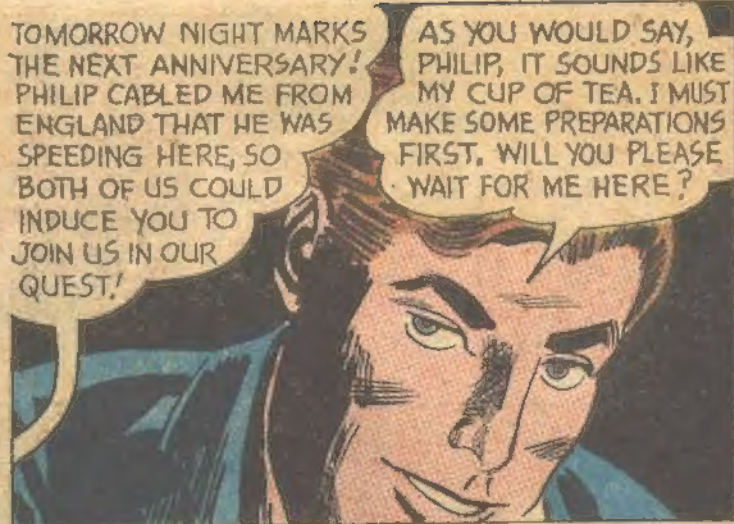


SPIRITS OF EVIL, HEAR MY WRATH! DESTROY ANY LANGLEY WHO WALKS THIS PATH!



CRRR-RACK







BUT EVEN AS THEY THREAD THROUGH THE DESERTED PARK...

HE OF LANGLEY BLOOD  
TAKE FLIGHT,  
DEATH AWAITS YOU  
ON THIS NIGHT!

GOOD  
GRIEF!

IN A SECOND, THE WEIRD  
IMAGE DISAPPEARS, AND THE  
TRIO WARILY ADVANCES...



IT--IT  
WAS THE  
MOST FRIGHT-  
ENING  
THING I EVER  
SAW!

WE KNEW THIS  
WASN'T GOING  
TO BE A PICNIC,  
PHIL! THERE'S  
THE FAMOUS  
EGYPTIAN  
OBELISK THAT  
WAS TRANSFERRED  
HERE, THAT MEANS  
WE'RE GETTING  
CLOSE!



A HEAVY  
CLOUD IS  
BEGINNING TO  
FORM AT THE  
BASE -- AND THE  
WHOLE  
STRUCTURE IS  
BEGINNING  
TO SHAKE!



G-GREAT SCOTT!  
IT'S FLOATING IN  
THE AIR--**STRAIGHT  
FOR ME!**

IT'S BEEN  
INHABITED  
BY THE SPIRIT  
OF THE CURSE!  
IT'S AFTER YOU  
BECAUSE YOU'RE  
A LANGLEY! **RUN,  
MARTIN!** I'LL  
TRY TO  
HANDLE  
THIS!





# HOUSE OF SECRETS



INSTANTLY, MARK  
WRENCHES A VIAL  
FROM HIS ATTACHE  
CASE...



A 10th CENTURY  
ENGLISH FILTER  
THAT'S SUPPOSED  
TO DESTROY SPIRITS  
OF STONE!



IT WORKED--  
THANK GOODNESS!  
THE SPIRIT'S BEEN  
SEPARATED FROM  
THE STONE AND  
BEEN DRIVEN OFF!

WHEW! I'M GLAD  
WE ASKED YOU  
ALONG! I COULD  
FEEL THAT COLD,  
CLAMMY THING  
RIGHT ON TOP  
OF ME!

CLOSE CALL!  
BUT WE CAN'T  
AFFORD TO  
LOSE ANY MORE  
TIME! WE'VE GOT  
ONLY 35 MINUTES  
LEFT!



ONWARD THEY  
TRUDGE, INTO  
THE SHADOWY  
RECESSES OF  
THE PARK...

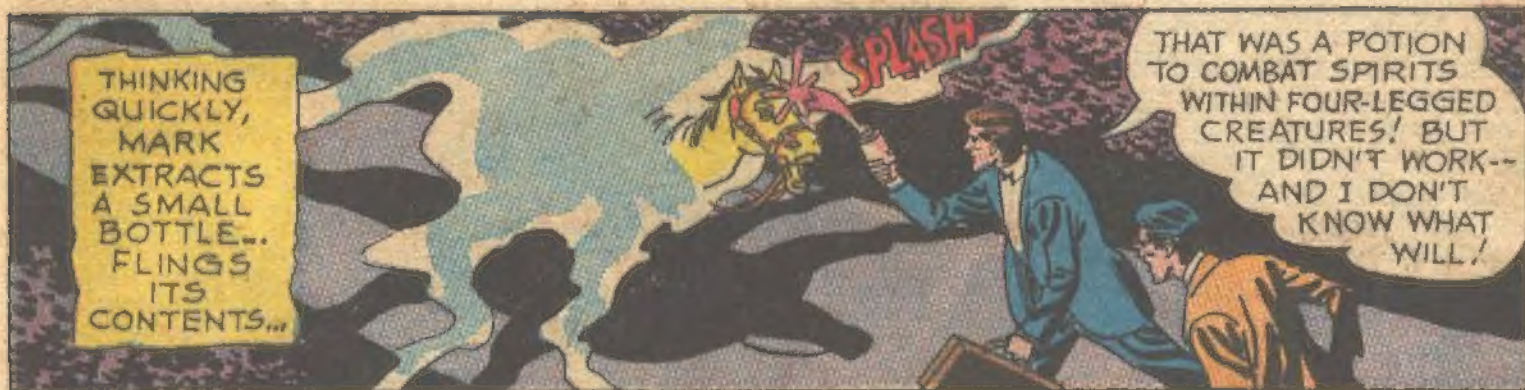
THERE'S THE  
CAROUSEL! THAT  
MEANS WE'RE ONLY  
ABOUT A HUNDRED  
YARDS FROM OUR  
GOAL!-- W-WHAT'S  
THAT?



THE SPIRIT! NOW IT'S INHABITED  
ONE OF THE MERRY-GO-ROUND  
FIGURES--AND IT'S HEADING FOR  
ME AGAIN! HURRY, MR. MERLIN--  
DO SOMETHING!

WHAT CAN I DO?  
THERE WEREN'T  
CAROUSELS BACK  
IN THE 10th CENTURY--  
OR POTIONS TO  
BE USED AGAINST  
THEM!







AND, AS THE TWO MEN STARE,  
TRANSFIXED WITH FEAR...

IT'S MERLIN! HE'S BEEN INHABITED BY  
THE SPIRIT--BECAUSE HE WAS OUR ONLY  
PROTECTION AGAINST  
IT! STOP, MERLIN!  
STOP!

HE'S COMPLETELY  
UNDER THE CONTROL  
OF THAT THING!  
I--I'VE GOT TO  
SHOOT HIM!  
THERE'S NO  
OTHER WAY!



DON'T SHOOT, PHIL!  
THERE MAY BE  
ANOTHER WAY...  
SOMETHING IN HIS  
DISPATCH CASE  
PERHAPS!

PHIL!  
IT--IT'S  
GOT ME!



YOU'RE  
RIGHT!  
LET'S  
HAVE A  
LOOK--  
QUICKLY!



THIS  
MIGHT DO!  
THE INSCRIPTION  
SAYS, "TO CAST  
OUT SPIRITS  
INVESTED  
WITHIN  
HUMAN  
FORM!"

PHIL WRENCHES THE STOPPER FROM THE VIAL,  
AND, WITH A WILD LUNGE, HURLS ITS CONTENTS  
AT THE WEIRD FORM...



IT--IT  
ALMOST  
FINISHED ME!  
PHIL--SEE IF  
MERLIN IS  
ALL RIGHT!





SLOWLY, MARK'S STRENGTH RETURNS AS HE REGAINS CONSCIOUSNESS...

YOU OKAY?

Y-YES! WHAT HAPPENED? OH, YES--I REMEMBER NOW! TERRIFYING FEELING OF A CLAMMY SENSATION INVADING MY BODY, AND THEN--OUR TIME MUST ALMOST BE GONE! WE'VE GOT TO HURRY!

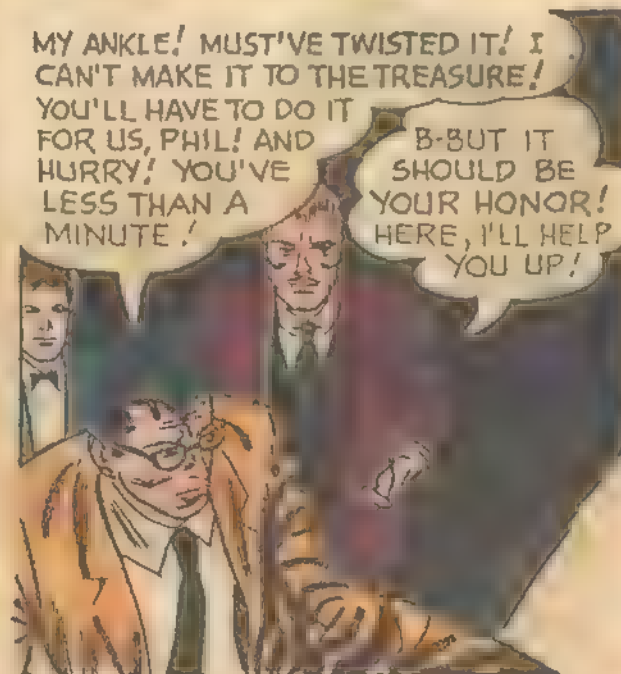


WITH ONLY A COUPLE OF MINUTES LEFT, THEY CROSS A HILL...

THAT'S IT! THE FUMES COMING OUT OF THE SPLIT IN THE EARTH! YOU GO FIRST, MARTIN! CLAIM THE TREASURE FOR US! I'M TIRED...

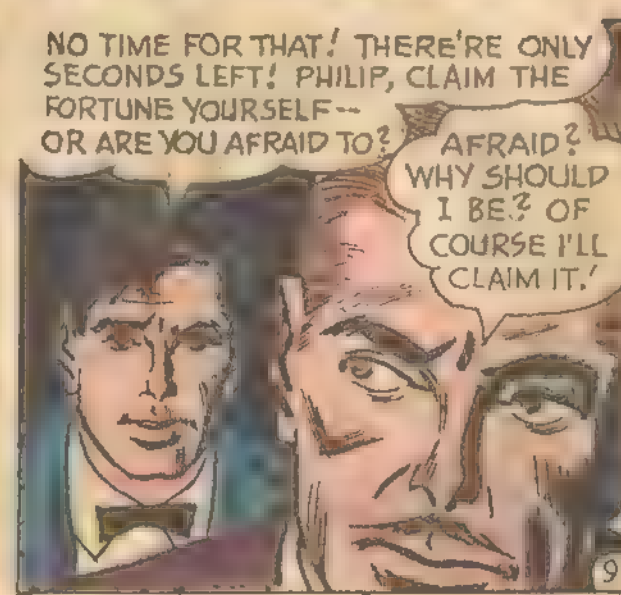


OKAY! I'LL-- OOF!



MY ANKLE! MUST'VE TWISTED IT! I CAN'T MAKE IT TO THE TREASURE! YOU'LL HAVE TO DO IT FOR US, PHIL! AND HURRY! YOU'VE LESS THAN A MINUTE!

B-BUT IT SHOULD BE YOUR HONOR! HERE, I'LL HELP YOU UP!



NO TIME FOR THAT! THERE'RE ONLY SECONDS LEFT! PHILIP, CLAIM THE FORTUNE YOURSELF-- OR ARE YOU AFRAID TO?

AFRAID? WHY SHOULD I BE? OF COURSE I'LL CLAIM IT!



BUT AS PHILIP  
REACHES THE  
GAPING HOLE...

MARK--ANOTHER  
SPIRIT MANIFESTATION!  
IT'S REACHING FOR  
PHILIP!

I DIDN'T THINK YOU HAD  
THE NERVE, PHILIP! YOU KNEW  
SEGEWICK'S CURSE WOULD  
TRY TO CLAIM YOU! THAT'S  
WHY YOU INSISTED MARTIN  
SEIZE THE FORTUNE!  
HOLD ON--THE HOUR  
IS ALMOST OVER!

SUDDENLY, AS THE CLOCK STRIKES ONE...

IT'S GONE!  
THE SPIRIT--  
THE CRATER--  
AND THE  
GOLD!

YES, BUT YOU'RE STILL  
ALIVE! THE SPIRIT OF SEGE-  
WICK ATTACKED YOU BECAUSE  
YOU'RE NOT A TRUE LANGLEY!  
MARTIN COULDN'T KNOW  
THAT BECAUSE HE  
NEVER MET HIS  
REAL ENGLISH  
COUSIN!

IT'S TRUE! I WAS A FRIEND  
OF PHILIP, WHO DIED.  
SINCE MARTIN HAD NEVER  
SEEN HIS COUSIN, IT WAS  
EASY TO POSE AS HIM TO  
SPLIT THE FORTUNE!  
BUT HOW DID YOU KNOW?

BECAUSE THE SPIRIT-  
ENEMY OF THE  
LANGLEYS ATTACKED  
ONLY MARTIN! IT KNEW  
HE WAS THE ONLY TRUE  
LANGLEY AMONG US!  
AND SPIRITS, UNLIKE  
HUMANS,  
DON'T LIE!

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SEEN...

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ABILITY AS A FOOTBALL  
PLAYER... BUT I CAN'T  
TELL ANYONE THE  
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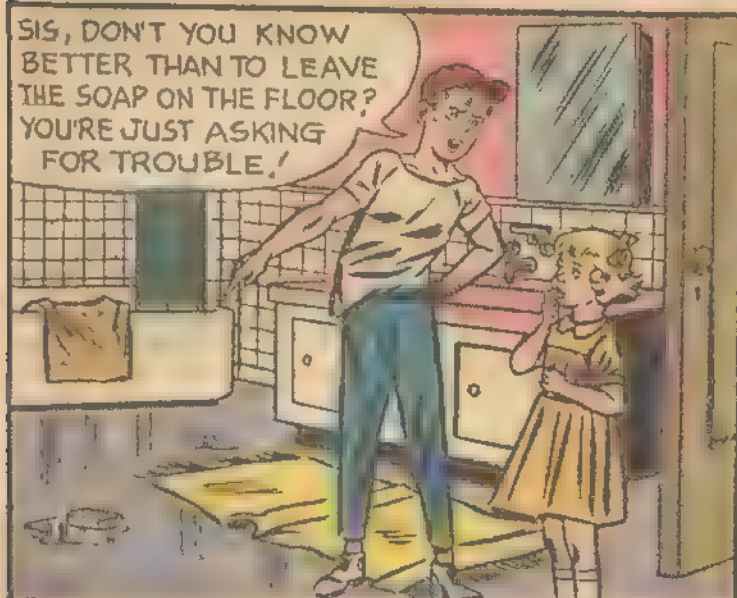
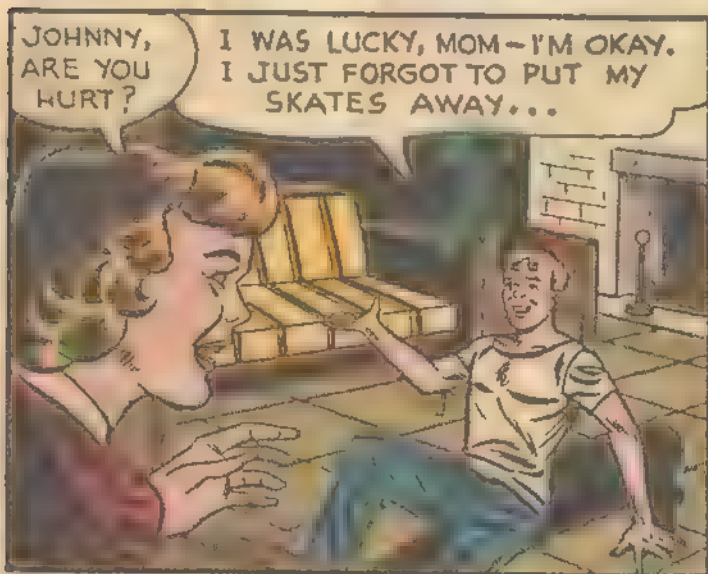
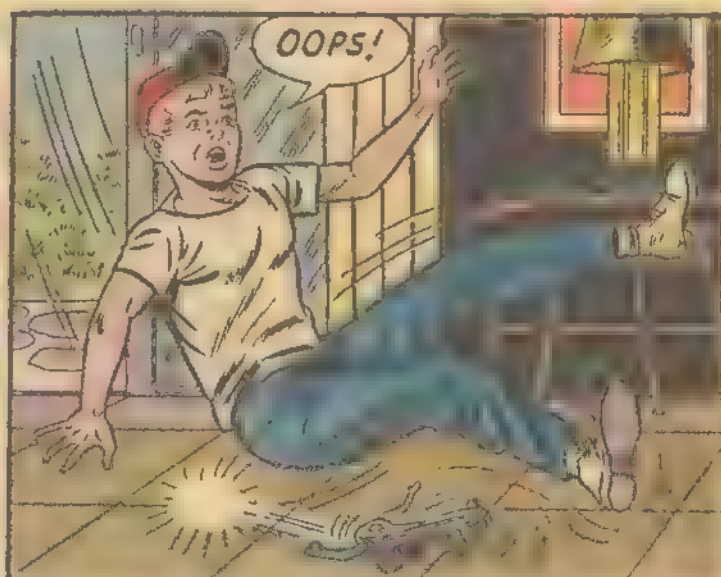
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# SAFETY FIRST--ALL YEAR!





WHAT WOULD YOU GIVE TO LIVE FOREVER--  
TO ACHIEVE MAY'S MOST ELUSIVE GOAL--  
IMMORTALITY? YOU'D GIVE A LOT? WELL,  
YOU AND I WILL NEVER HAVE THAT CHOICE!  
BUT JASON BRADFORD DID--AND THEN  
HE HAD TO CHOOSE BETWEEN LIVING  
FOREVER AND SOMETHING JUST AS  
PRECIOUS WHEN HE LEARNED TOO LATE TO...

# BEWARE THE 13<sup>TH</sup> GUEST

THAT MOUNTAIN  
TURNED INTO A FIERY  
VOLCANO! JASON--HOW  
DID YOU CONTRIVE  
SUCH A FANTASTIC  
PARTY STUNT?

THE DATE INSCRIBED  
ON THE FOUNTAIN--79 A.D.!  
THIS ISN'T MY DOING!  
SOMEHOW WE TRAVELED  
BACK IN TIME TO  
ANCIENT POMPEII!

79 A.D.



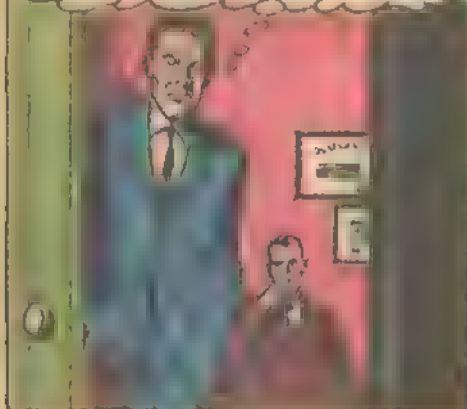


# HOUSE OF SECRETS



FOR ALL MEN, DEATH IS THE ULTIMATE END. BUT FOR JASON BRADFORD THE END CAME TO SOON...

SIX MONTHS THE DOCTOR GAVE ME! THAT'S ALL I HAVE LEFT-- WITH NO HOPE! THERE'S NO CURE FOR MY CONDITION!

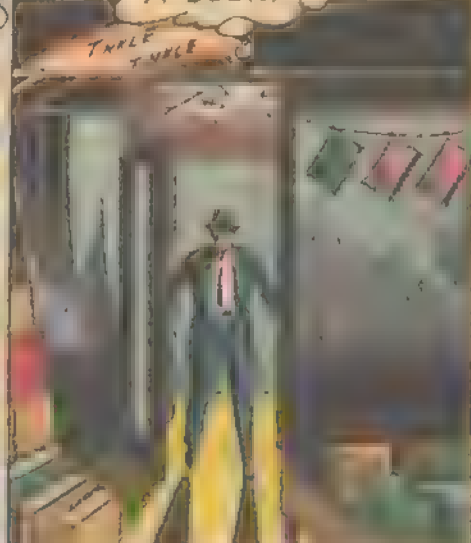


SIX MONTHS! A SHORT TIME--BUT JASON BRADFORD DECIDED TO SPEND THEM WELL! HE HAD PLENTY OF MONEY...

I'LL TRAVEL-- SEE PARTS OF THE WORLD I NEVER SAW! BUT BEFORE I LEAVE, I'LL GIVE A FAREWELL PARTY AND INVITE MY CLOSEST FRIENDS!



I WANT THAT PARTY TO BE UNFORGETTABLE TO THOSE WHO SURVIVE ME! MAYBE I CAN GET AN IDEA FROM A BOOK!



WHAT A PEECE OF LUCK, "THE LEGEND OF THE PHARAOH'S FEAST!" IT DESCRIBES PARTIES OF THE PAST! I'LL TAKE IT!



IN THE 3RD DYNASTY OF EGYPT'S LOWER KINGDOM THE PHARAOH, NEARING DEATH, COMMANDED 12 NOBLES OF HIS REALM TO A FAREWELL FEAST...

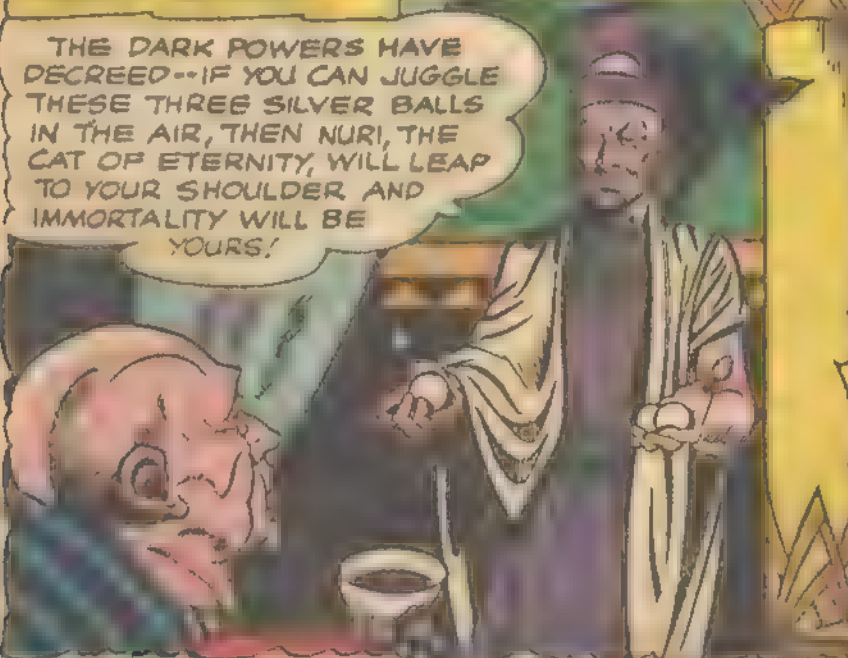


GREAT KING! IT IS SAID, THERE IS A MAGICIAN CALLED ZALJAZ, WHO CAN GIVE THE GIFT OF IMMORTALITY TO ANYONE!

IMMORTALITY? HOW I CRAVE IT! INVITE HIM HERE-- AT ONCE!

"AND SO THIS ZALJAZ WAS BROUGHT BEFORE THE MIGHTY PHARAOH..."

THE DARK POWERS HAVE DECREED--IF YOU CAN JUGGLE THESE THREE SILVER BALLS IN THE AIR, THEN NURI, THE CAT OF ETERNITY, WILL LEAP TO YOUR SHOULDER AND IMMORTALITY WILL BE YOURS!



I HAVE MORE THAN ENOUGH STRENGTH LEFT FOR SUCH A SIMPLE FEAT! I--

THE BALLS FLY HITHER AND YON AS IF BEWITCHED





"AGAIN AND AGAIN, THE AGED PHARAOH ATTEMPTED TO JUGGLE THE GLITTERING SPHERES, BUT..."

THE PHARAOH HAS FAILED!

IT IS NOT EASY TO WIN THE CAT OF ETERNITY! ENJOY YOUR FEAST, MY LORDS! FAREWELL, GREAT KING!

ZALJAZ APPEARED THROUGHOUT HISTORY TO CHALLENGE OTHERS TO JUGGLE THE BALLS AND WREST IMMORTALITY FROM HIM! EACH TIME, IT WAS AT A GATHERING AS THE 13TH GUEST... JUST AS HE'D BEEN THE 13TH GUEST AT THE PHARAOH'S FEAST!

THROUGH THE CENTURIES, ALL HAVE FAILED--BUT IF I WIN THAT CAT FROM ZALJAZ--IF THE LEGEND IS TRUE--MY LIFE WOULDN'T END IN SIX MONTHS BUT GO ON FOREVER!

WITHOUT LOSING ANY TIME, HE PUT HIS PLAN IN MOTION...

THERE! I'VE INVITED THE 12 PEOPLE CLOSEST TO ME TO A ROMAN-STYLE PARTY! AND NOW FOR THE 13TH--AND MOST IMPORTANT GUEST!

SHORTLY, ATOP A NEARBY MOUNTAIN...

ZALJAZ! HEAR ME ACROSS THE WASTES OF TIME! JASON BRADFORD INVITES YOU TO A BANQUET--A FEAST WHERE I'LL SAY FAREWELL TO DEATH... AND YOU TO LIFE!

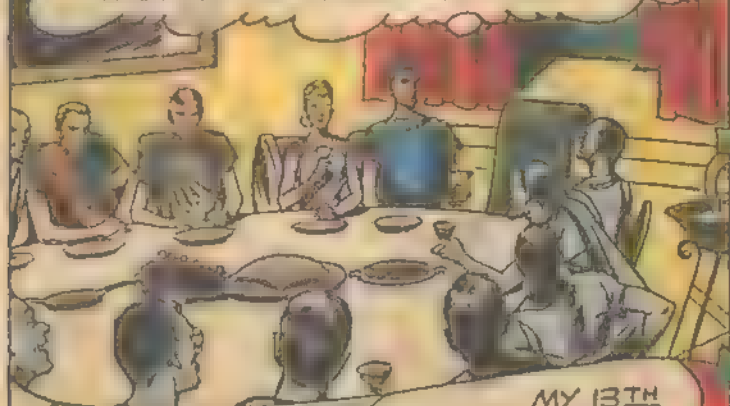
THERE REMAINED ONLY ONE MORE THING TO DO...

I'M SURE I CAN OUTWIT THAT OLD SORCERER WITH THIS...



AND THEN, THE FATEFUL NIGHT ARRIVED...

EVERYONE'S HERE... ED, MY BEST FRIEND, MY GIRL PAULA, MY PARTNER DEXTER... EVERYONE EXCEPT ZALJAZ! WHAT IF HE DOESN'T APPEAR?



MY HE'S A GLOOMY ONE! WHO IS HE, JASON?

MY 13TH GUEST IS GOING TO ASSIST ME IN ENTERTAINING US, PAULA! DID YOU BRING THE SPHERES, ZALJAZ?



OF COURSE! SO MANY HAVE TRIED BEFORE YOU -- BUT STILL MY PET HAS NEVER LEFT ME!

YOU'RE IN FOR A SURPRISE TONIGHT, ZALJAZ! WATCH!



AS IF IN ANSWER TO HIS QUESTION...

WHO'S THIS CHARACTER? THE INVITATION SAID ROMAN DRESS!

ZALJAZ-- WITH THE CAT OF ETERNITY ON HIS SHOULDER! THE OLD LEGEND IS TRUE! IF EVERYTHING WORKS RIGHT, THAT CAT WILL BE PERCHED ON MY SHOULDER BEFORE THIS PARTY ENDS!

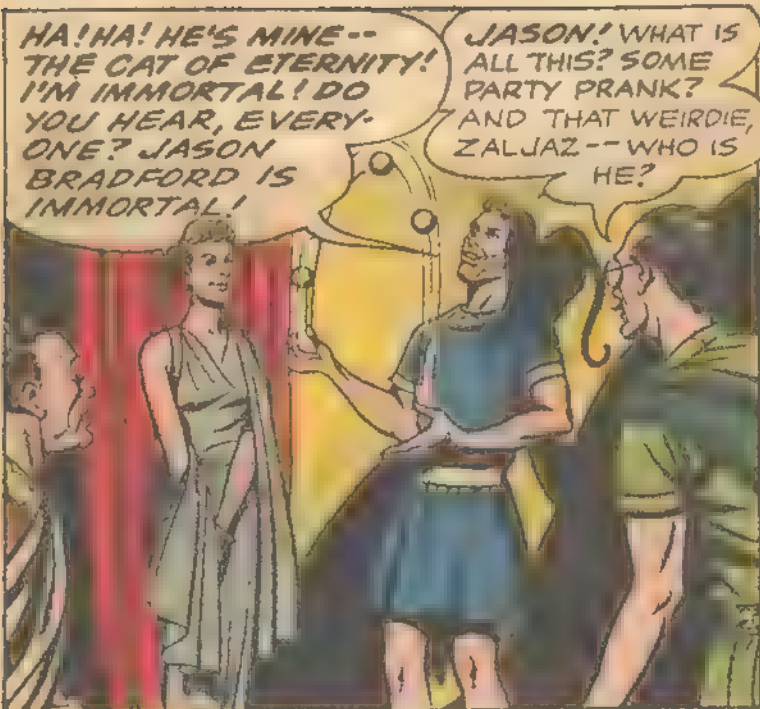


BY THE SACRED IBIS! HE JUGGLES THEM PERFECTLY! CAT-- LEAVE ME NOT!

LOOK OUT, JASON! THE CAT'S LEAPING FROM HIM ONTO YOU!







HA! HA! HE'S MINE--  
THE CAT OF ETERNITY!  
I'M IMMORTAL! DO  
YOU HEAR, EVERY-  
ONE? JASON  
BRADFORD IS  
IMMORTAL!

JASON! WHAT IS  
ALL THIS? SOME  
PARTY PRANK?  
AND THAT WEIRDIE,  
ZALJAZ-- WHO IS  
HE?

OVERJOYED, BRADFORD REVEALED HOW THE  
LEGEND OF THE PHARAOH'S FEAST HAD  
SAVED HIM FROM HIS DEATH SENTENCE...

YOU MEAN... THIS  
FANTASTIC STORY  
IS *TRUE*-- THAT  
THE CAT GIVES  
YOU IMMORTALITY?

EVERY WORD, ED! THIS  
WAS TO BE A FARE-  
WELL PARTY-- BUT NOW  
IT'S A CELEBRATION OF  
MY OUTWITTING THAT  
OLD MAGICIAN! DID YOU  
NOTICE HOW HE SLUNK  
AWAY IN DEFEAT?



BUT OUTSIDE...

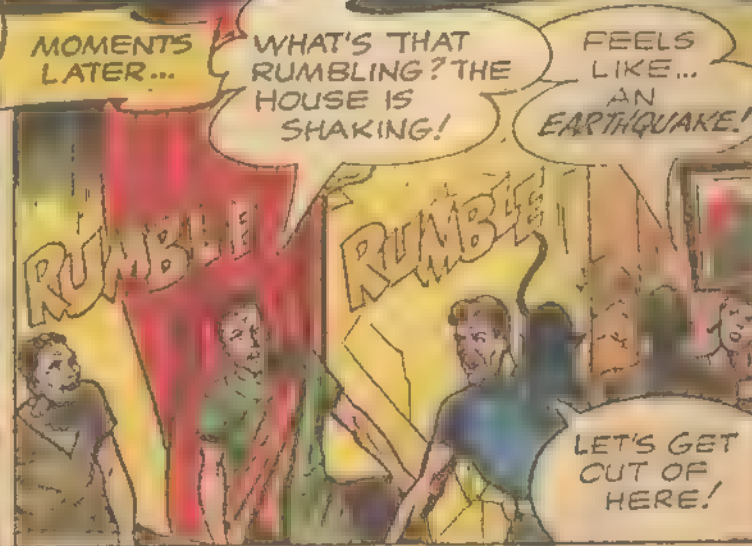
HE TRICKED ME SOMEHOW!  
BUT I'VE NOT LIVED FOR  
CENTURIES WITHOUT LEARNING  
HOW TO CONTROL TIME! I  
SHALL USE TIME TO WREAK  
MY REVENGE AND THE CAT  
SHALL AGAIN BE MINE!



MOMENTS  
LATER...

WHAT'S THAT  
RUMBLING? THE  
HOUSE IS  
SHAKING!

FEELS  
LIKE...  
AN  
EARTHQUAKE!



LET'S GET  
OUT OF  
HERE!

GREAT HEAVENS! THAT  
NEARBY MOUNTAIN-- IT'S  
ERUPTING LIKE A VOLCANO--  
CAUSING HOT ASHES TO  
POUR DOWN ON US!



JASON-- HOW DID YOU  
EVER MANAGE THIS  
WILD PARTY IDEA?  
BETTER PUT A STOP  
TO IT BEFORE  
SOMEONE GETS  
HURT!



WHO ARE THOSE PEOPLE OVER THERE--DRESSED AS WE ARE--FLEEING FROM THAT FIERY DEBRIS?

THIS FOUNTAIN WITH THE DATE... 79 A.D. ... I NEVER SAW IT HERE BEFORE! SOMETHING TERRIBLE IS HAPPENING.

BACK INTO THE HOUSE, EVERYONE! IT'LL PROTECT US FROM THE VOLCANIC DOWNPOUR!

ZALJAZ!  
YOU... YOU'RE BEHIND THIS!

YES--I SENT YOU AND YOUR HOUSE BACK IN TIME... TO ANCIENT POMPEII... TO THE VERY DAY IT WAS DESTROYED BY THE ERUPTION OF MT. VESUVIUS! YOU WISHED FOR A ROMAN FEAST--AND THAT IS WHAT YOU SHALL HAVE!

YOU MONSTER! SO THIS IS YOUR REVENGE FOR MY TAKING YOUR CAT! BUT THIS FIERY DELUGE CAN'T HURT ME... I'M IMMORTAL!

BUT YOUR FRIENDS ARE NOT! SHORTLY, THE BLAZING DEBRIS WILL COVER YOUR HOUSE... YOUR FRIENDS! YES, YOU WILL SURVIVE--

--BUT YOU KNOW I WON'T LET MY FRIENDS DIE! YOU PLANNED IT THIS WAY! YOU EVEN RISKED YOUR OWN LIFE TO TRICK ME!

YET ALL YOU HAVE TO DO TO RESTORE YOUR FRIENDS TO THE SAFETY OF THE PRESENT IS TO GIVE ME BACK THE CAT!

MY BEST FRIENDS! I...I CAN'T LET THEM DIE! TAKE THE CAT, YOU TRICKSTER!

COME NURI!... WHAT IS THIS? HE WON'T LEAVE YOU... HE CLAWS TO STAY!

EEXOW!





OF COURSE! YOU MUST GIVE ME THE THREE SPHERES TO JUGGLE! THEN THE CAT WILL LEAP BACK TO ME!

BUT THEY'RE STUCK TOGETHER...MAGNETIZED INTO ONE LUMP!



IF YOU MADE THEM ADHERE, THEN YOU CAN SEPARATE THEM! BUT HURRY--OR THIS HOUSE AND YOUR FRIENDS WILL BE DESTROYED!

YES, YES... I HID THE MAGNETS IN THE WALLS TO COUNTER-ACT THE UNBALANCING WEIGHTS I FIGURED YOU PUT INSIDE THE SPHERES!



QUICKLY, BRADFORD RECOVERED THE ELECTRO-MAGNETS, AND...

THERE, YOU CAN SEPARATE THEM NOW!

SO THAT WAS HOW YOU WERE ABLE TO JUGGLE THEM--BY CONTROLLING THEM MAGNETICALLY!

THEN, WITH FINGERS LONG SKILLED TO CONTROL THE UNBALANCING WEIGHTS WITHIN THE GLITTERING CLOVES...

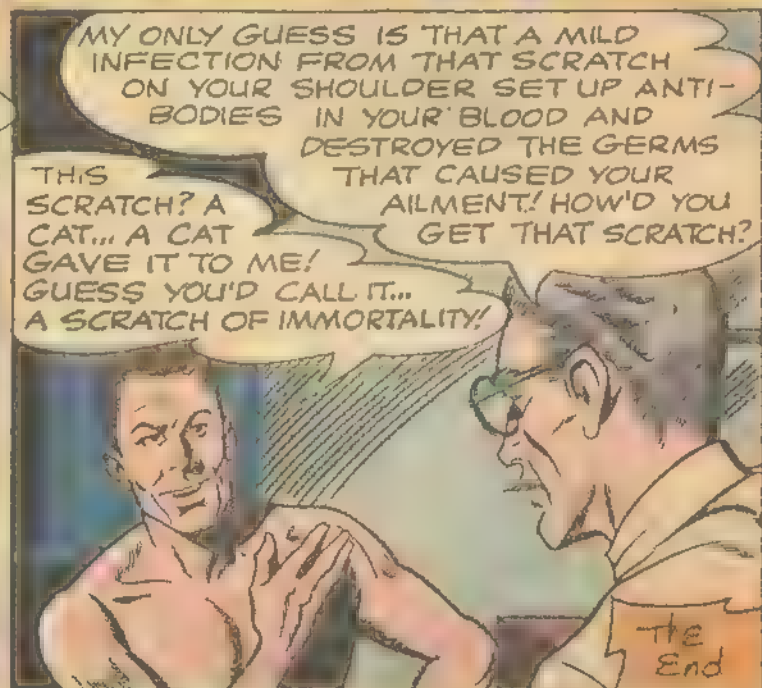
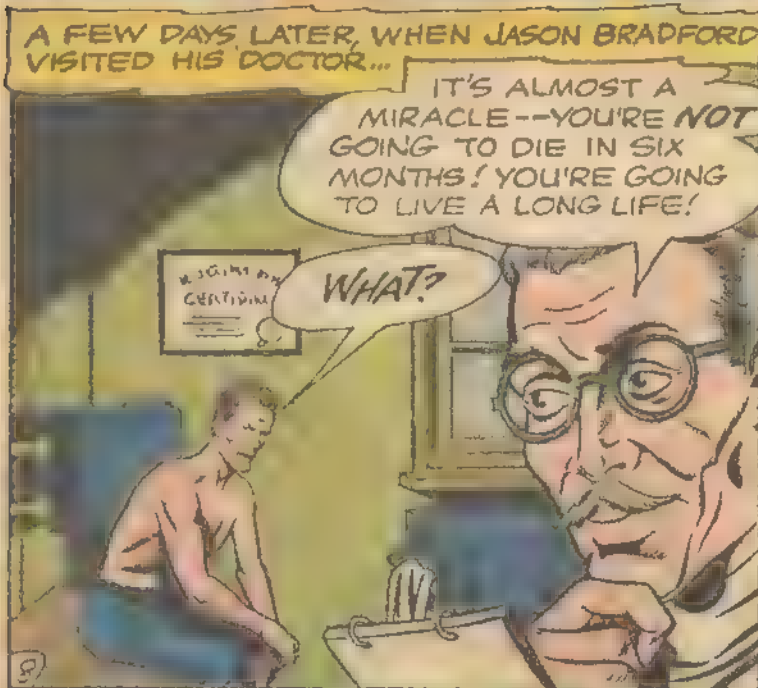
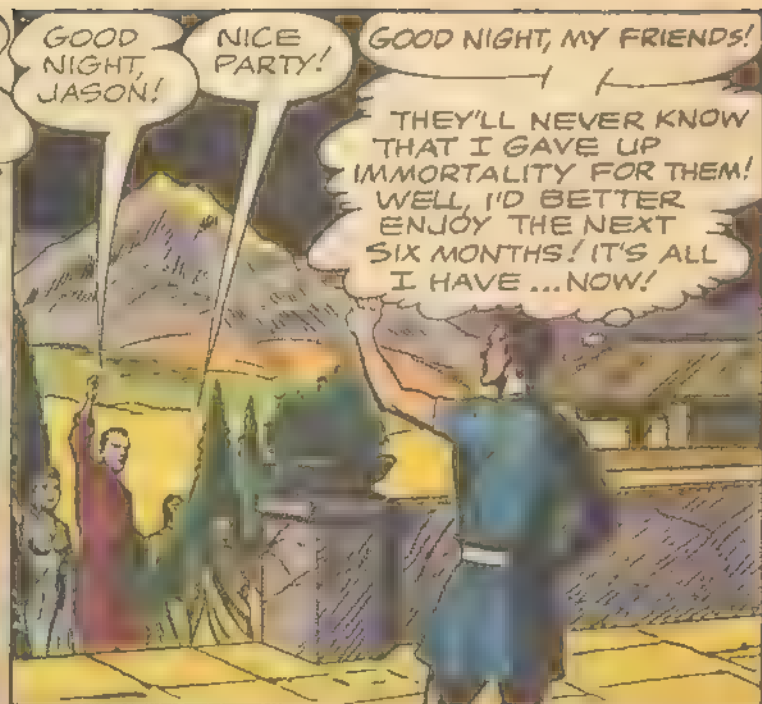
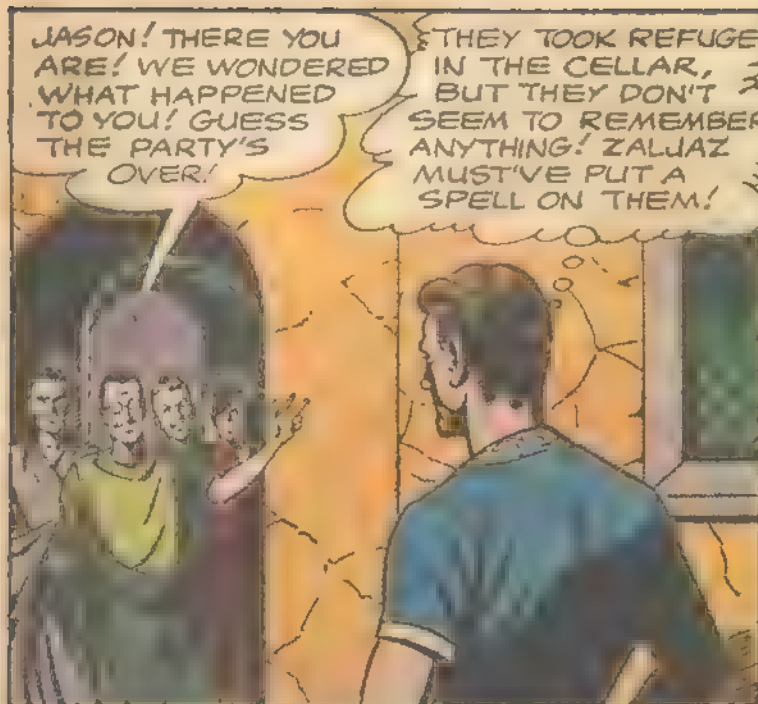
I AM SUCCEEDING AND NURI RETURNS TO MY SHOULDER! IMMORTALITY IS MINE AGAIN! YOU HAVE LOST, FOOL!

THE HOUSE SUDDENLY WENT DARK, AND ALL WAS SILENT...

HE'S GONE... AND THE ERUPTION STOPPED! WE...WE MUST BE BACK IN THE PRESENT AGAIN! BUT WHERE ARE MY FRIENDS?







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ON SALE EVERYWHERE... JAN. 10th





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 THE BEST IN NUCLEAR BATTLE EQUIPMENT FOR MAXIMUM EFFORT WARFARE AND MASSIVE COUNTER-ATTACK!  
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Your opponent prepares to launch a sneak atomic attack. He sets the locking trigger and adjusts the automatic elevation control on his ICBMT Launcher. He fires! But you are ready! Your missile base crewmen intercept the warning on their self-contained oxy-radar packs. Your XA Counter-fighter is launched to intercept... contact...

You deliver the nuclear knockout. But wait! You have been attacked by a double-stage warhead and the second one is bearing down. Your crew can only use their hand-gun radi-activators. Can you still win? Are you good enough to survive? Only you can answer... send for Missile Attack today and find out!



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 2 Perfect Sea Astro Helmets.





## Mark Merlin's Mailbox

Dear Mark: Our library stocks several books on witchcraft, which I've read with great enthusiasm. Can you tell me where I could find the best collection?

Bryan T. Anderson, New York City

According to T. F. Cahoon, curator of New York's Morgan Library, the best collection in the country is available at the library of Cornell University, Ithaca, N. Y. Incidentally, Mr. Cahoon not long ago gathered a unique show which was presented at the Grolier Club. The exhibition displayed books, manuscripts and art work on witches and demons, borrowed from private collections in this country, Europe and Asia, the last being represented by a Siamese sorcerer's book. The oldest book, "Fortalitium Fidei," printed in 1467, and the first American issue of "Dracula" also were shown.

\*\*\*

**SNIPPINGS FROM MAILBAG MISSIVES:** A flurry of felicitations has descended on us in regards to "25c to Nowhere," which apparently was enjoyed by all our readers. In reply to the question of Thomas Brady of New York, among others, the author was France Herron. . . . "HOUSE OF SECRETS has suddenly become one of the magazines I look forward to seeing," writes Rick Wood of Memphis, Tenn., then adds that Mort Meskin is doing "his best art work since *Johnny Quick*. But he guesses wrong in his artists-identification game. That was Bill Ely who illustrated "The Spectral Sniper of Kronen Castle" and Howard Purcell who dittoed the "25c to Nowhere" yarn. Purcell is seen again here in "Beware the 13th Guest."

Lots of readers asking where they can see more of Lee Elias' work. His contribution of *Green Arrow* can be seen regularly in *World's Finest Comics*, and he does the entire issue of *Tommy Tomorrow* in *Showcase*.

\*\*\*

Dear Mark: Thought my fellow-readers would be interested in this eerie information. Visitors to this city often have expressed surprise and wonder at whole blocks of old houses with yellow doorways, steps and stoops. The explanation begins with a cult of many thousands in New Orleans who once practiced voodooism. They used many strange concoctions, each supposedly bearing a strange power. The most popular was something called "grigri powder," which, when sprinkled on an enemy's doorstep, was guaran-

teed to bring him bad luck or death. So fearful were the voodooists of this that as a precaution they bought an *anti-grigri* powder, which they stirred in water, then scrubbed their doorways and stoops with the mixture. This powder included the paint pigment, yellow ocher, which to this day is still in evidence.

B.J.B., New Orleans

\*\*\*

Dear Mark: Some time ago, I read about the existence of the Isle of Demons. Can you give me any information about such a weirdly named place?

Bernice Smith, Sacramento

The Isle of Demons is a barren pinpoint of land off the Newfoundland coast, long forgotten by the world's geographers. Whatever dubious distinction it enjoys can be traced to a tragedy that occurred back in 1541 when a beautiful French teenager named Marguerite de Roberval abandoned her schooling and place in royal society to accompany her uncle to his new appointment as Viceroy of Canada. Little did she realize that a twist of fate would imperil her life; for when she fell in love aboard ship with a sailor and refused to bow to her uncle's demands to end the romance, she and an elderly nurse were put ashore on the Isle of Demons, named by superstitious crews who claimed to see beasts roam through the mists.

As Marguerite watched the ship move off, she saw a figure leap overboard, and not long after her sweetheart emerged from the surf onto the beach. Together, they built a tiny shelter to protect them against the weather and managed to survive by catching fish. All the time, they watched hopefully for a sail or a sign of a ship, but in vain. The nurse died of malnutrition and exposure that first fierce winter, and the following spring, the sailor succumbed.

It wasn't until three years later that Marguerite, on the verge of going mad, sighted a rectangle of sail on the horizon, and in a last desperate attempt, set the shelter on fire to attract it. An alert lookout spotted the smoke, and some hours afterward, her clothes in tatters and patched with small animal skins, Marguerite was rescued.

Address all communications to MARK MERLIN'S MAILBOX, HOUSE OF SECRETS, National Periodical Publications, 575 Lexington Avenue, New York 22, N. Y.



"TICK-TOCK," SAID THE CLOCKS, "TICK-TOCK!" BUT WERE THEY SINGING MERRILY, OR WHISPERING SINISTER THINGS? ONLY OLD JED WOULD KNOW, FOR HE ALONE UNDERSTOOD THEIR TALK--AND ONLY HE WOULD BE ABLE TO SOLVE THEIR SURPRISING SECRET, FOR HE WAS...

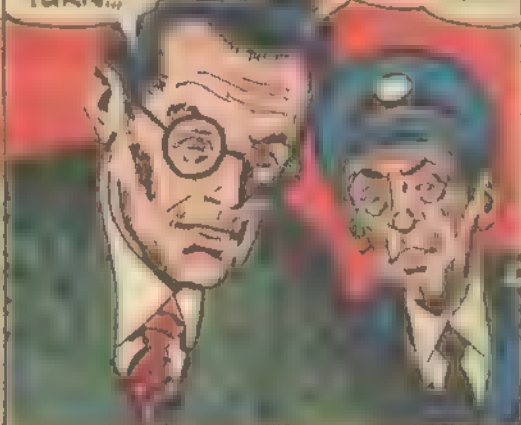
# THE KEEPER OF THE KILLER CLOCKS



IN THIS SOUNDPROOF ROOM THERE IS NO NOISE, SAVE FOR A QUIVERING VOICE THAT ATTEMPTS TO CONCEAL ANXIETY...

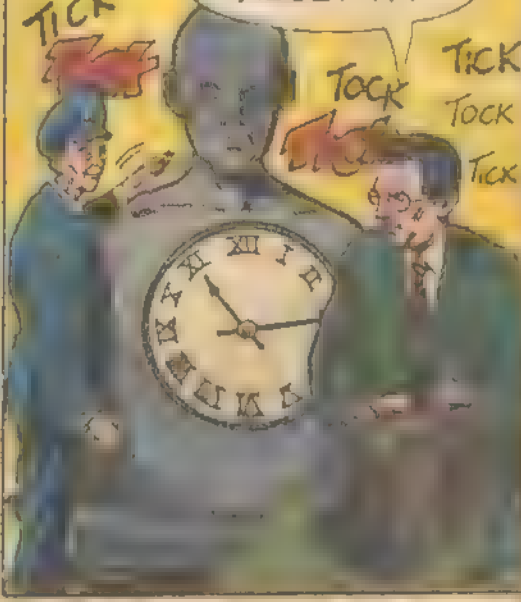
ANOTHER TWIST... THEN A FULL TURN...

AH, THERE... SIGH... THAT DOES IT...

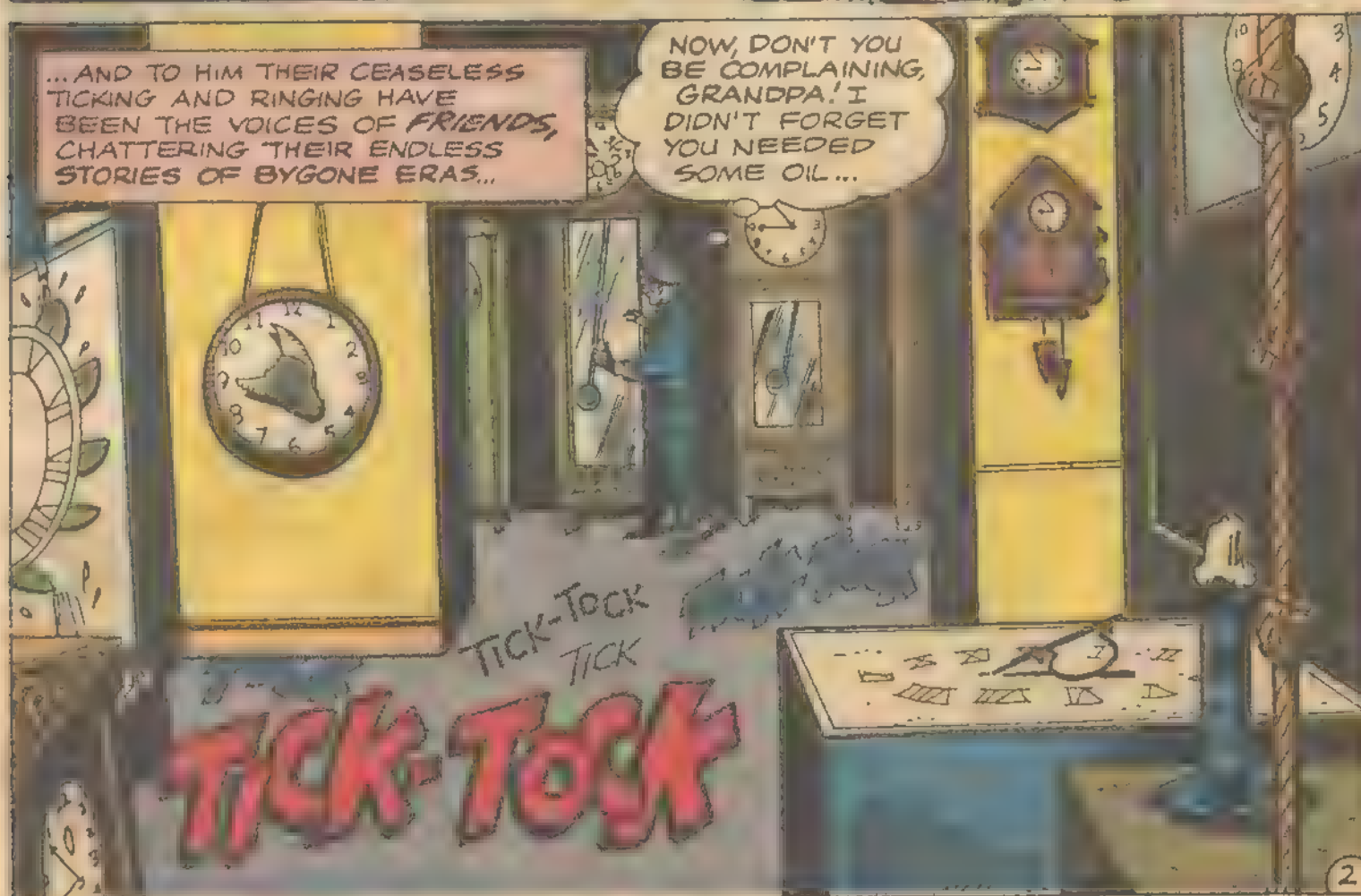
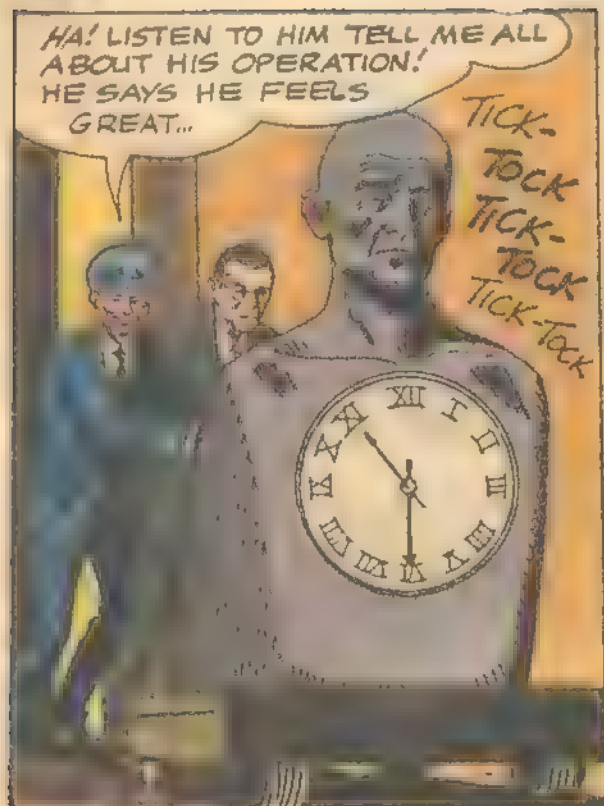


HEAR HIM? HE'S AS GOOD AS NEW!

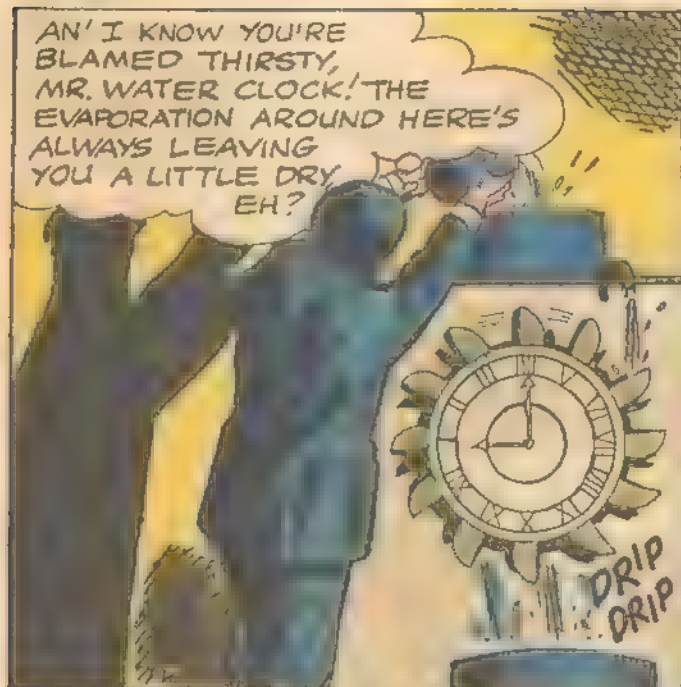
LISTEN JED, DO YOU HAVE TO REMOVE A CLOCK THAT NEEDS REPAIR FROM THE OTHER ROOM INTO THIS ONE? THERE'S NOTHING CONTAGIOUS ABOUT IT!



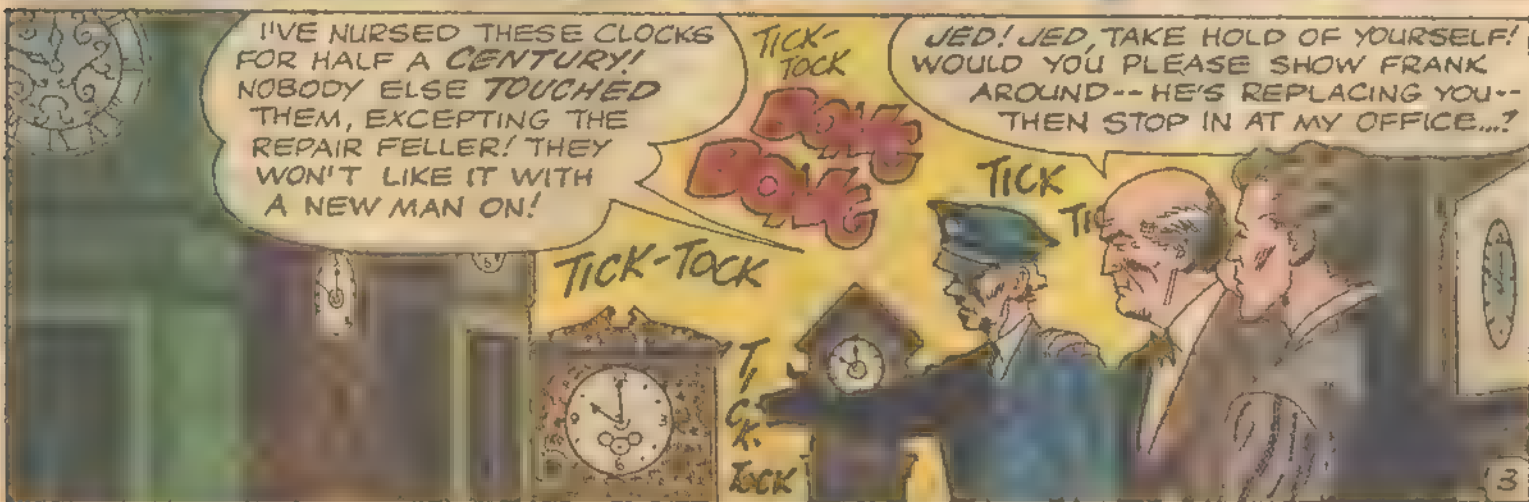
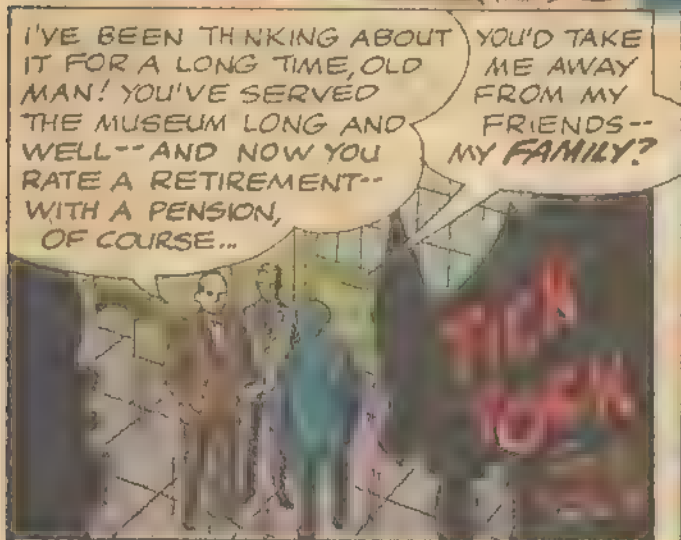
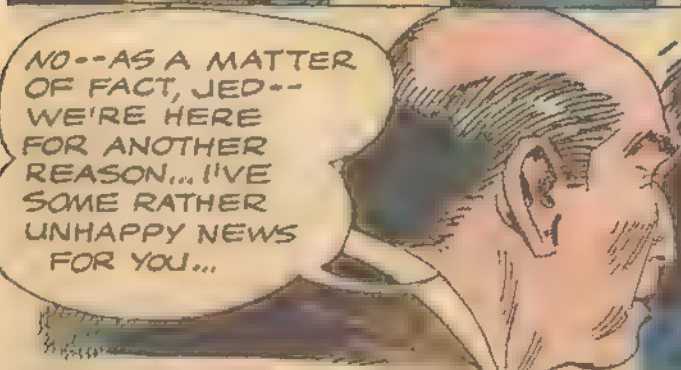
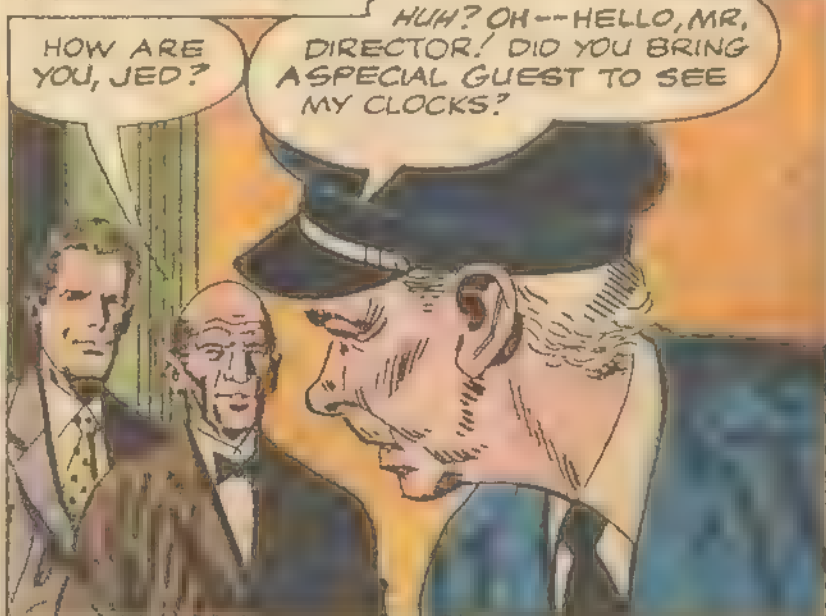








THEN, SUDDENLY, ONE DAY OLD JED'S SERENE WORLD EXPLODED...





AS OLD JED INTRODUCES HIS "FRIENDS" HE IS AWARE THAT HE IS ALSO BIDDING THEM FAREWELL ...

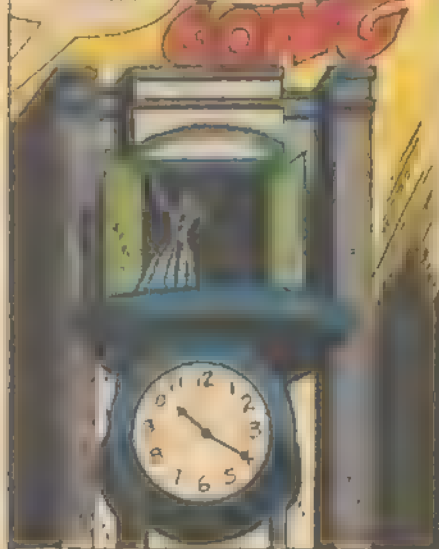
THIS IS A "BUFFALO CLOCK," MADE BY AN OLD BUFFALO HUNTER WHO RODE WITH BILL CODY! THE HANDS ARE MADE OF HORNS, AS YOU CAN SEE...



THE "ROPE CLOCK" SHOWED TIME WHEN THE ROPE BURNED TO EACH KNOT... THE "CANDLE CLOCK" GAVE THE TIME AS IT BURNED DOWN TO EACH RING... AND YOU'RE FAMILIAR WITH THE SUN-DIAL, OF COURSE ...



THIS ANCIENT TOWER CLOCK FROM ENGLAND, STRIKES ON THE HOUR, AND A MAIDEN IN DISTRESS COMES OUT...



...THEN AN IRON DRAGON COMES OUT, CHASING HER...



... BUT A BRAVE KNIGHT ON HORSEBACK CHASES THE DRAGON ...



THE KNIGHT STRIKES THE DRAGON, AND THE FIGURES RETURN INSIDE THE CLOCK... I THINK YOU KNOW THE OTHER CLOCKS... I'VE GOT TO GO NOW...

YOU LOVE THEM, DON'T YOU? I'M SORRY YOU HAVE TO LEAVE, TRULY SORRY!





WITH HEAVY HEART, OLD JED TRUDGES HOME, AND DROPS WEARILY INTO HIS ROCKING CHAIR, WHERE HE SITS MOTIONLESS FOR HOURS...

I'LL MISS THEIR FAMILIAR VOICES... AND THEY'LL MISS ME... I WANTED TO BE WITH THEM-- ALWAYS...



SUDDENLY...

WHAT'S THIS? THE MOON... IS CHANGING INTO... A CLOCK!



IT--IT'S LAUGHING AT ME!



NOW I UNDERSTAND! THE CLOCKS WERE LAUGHING AT ME-- THEY ALWAYS LAUGHED AT ME!



SURE--THEY TICK AWAY THE HOURS--DAYS--WEEKS-- YEARS! THEY'VE BEEN TICKING AWAY MY LIFE! THEY'RE NOT MY FRIENDS--



THEY'RE KILLER CLOCKS-- AND THEY'VE BEEN SLOWLY KILLING ME FOR YEARS!

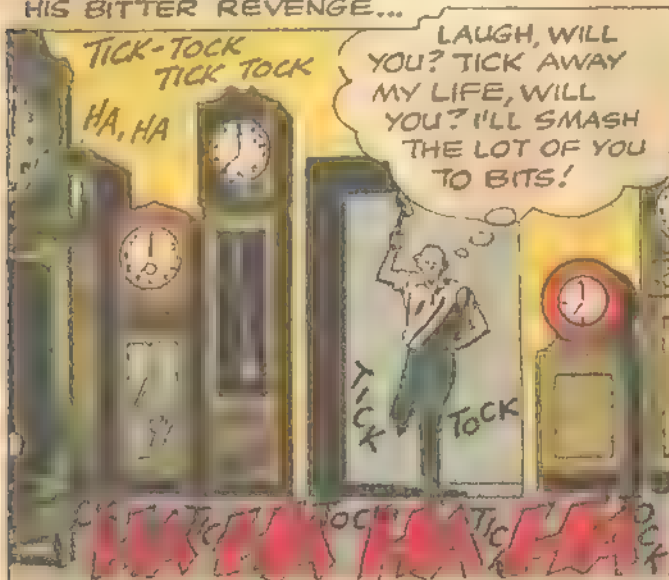


BUT I'LL KILL YOU FIRST! I'LL GET YOU-- EVERY ONE OF YOU-- BEFORE YOU GET ME!

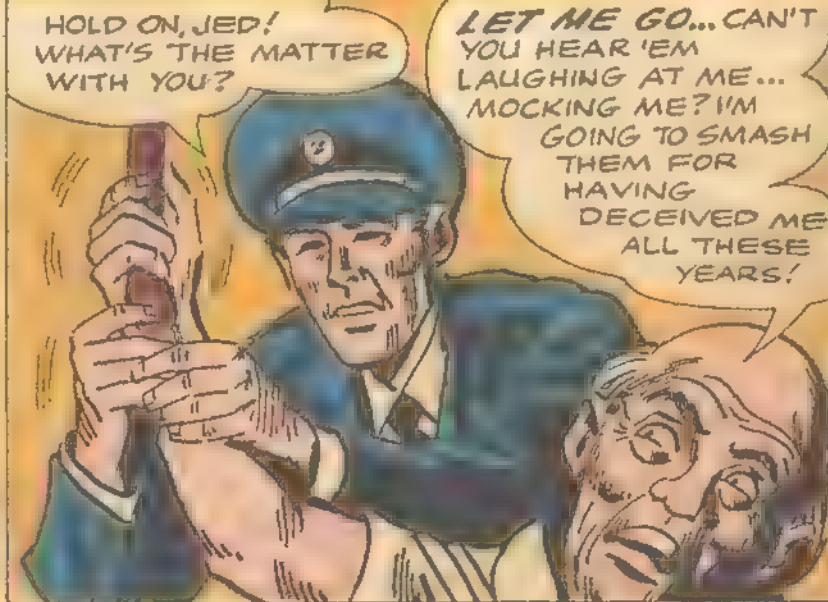




EARLY NEXT MORNING, SLIPPING INTO THE MUSEUM WITH A PASSKEY BEFORE IT OPENS, OLD JED PREPARES TO WREAK HIS BITTER REVENGE...



SUMMONED BY HIS MANIACAL THREATS, ANOTHER FIGURE HURRIEDLY ENTERS...



HOLD ON, JED! WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH YOU?

LET ME GO... CAN'T YOU HEAR 'EM LAUGHING AT ME... MOCKING ME? I'M GOING TO SMASH THEM FOR HAVING DECEIVED ME ALL THESE YEARS!

I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S COME OVER YOU, BUT I'D BETTER TIE YOU UP TILL I CAN GET HELP!

BIND ME WITH THONGS FROM THE "BUFFALO CLOCK!" SEE? IT'S WORKING AGAINST ME!



BUT AT THE DOORWAY...



BACK INSIDE, PAL-- AN' DON'T MAKE ANY HEROIC MOVES! THIS GUN SAYS YOU'LL LOSE!

WHO ARE YOU? WHAT DO YOU WANT?



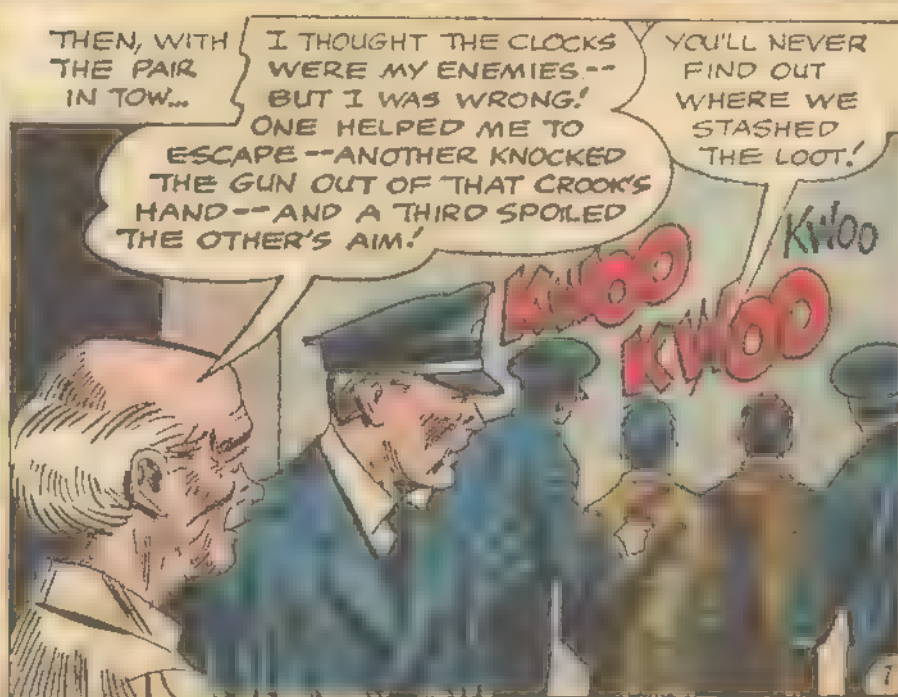
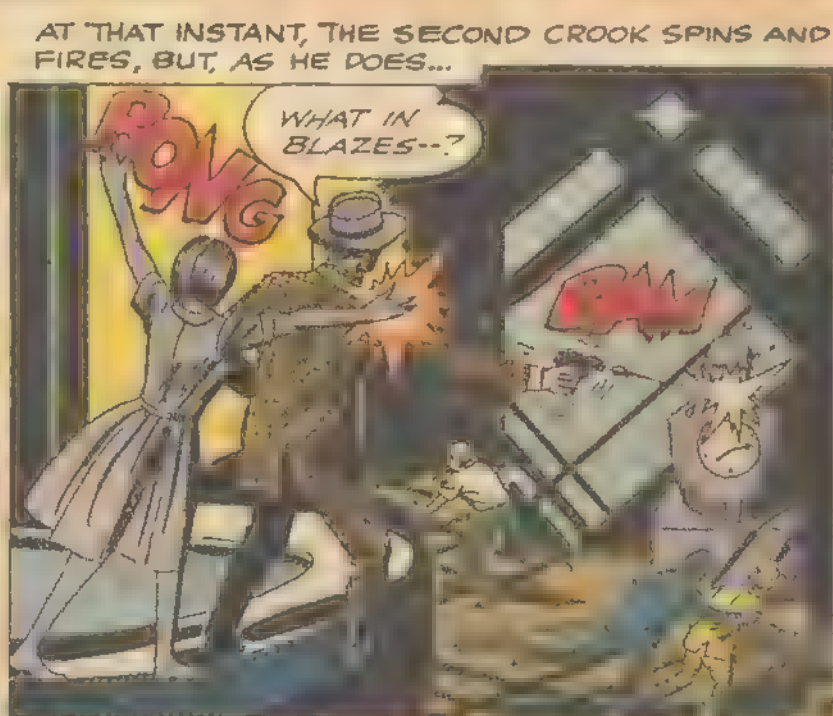
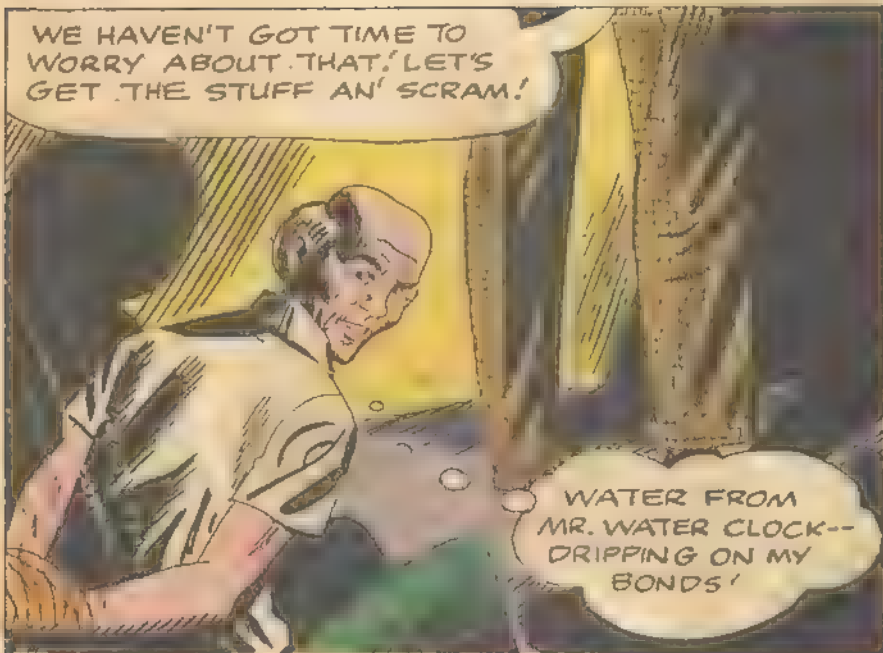
WE TOOK A LITTLE SOMETHIN' FROM THE GEM ROOM YESTERDAY, BUT COULDN'T SLIP IT OUTSIDE BECAUSE THE GUARDS WERE SEARCHIN' PEOPLE. WE STASHED IT SO WE CAN GET IT BACK NOW!



KEEP AN EYE ON THIS GUY, PETIE--AN, HEY! WHAT'S THIS? AN OL' GEEZER--TRUSSED UP! WONDER WHAT'S BEEN GOIN' ON?









KWOO KWOO

OH, NO? IT'S UP THERE--IN THE CUCKOO CLOCK! YOU MUST'VE COME IN YESTERDAY WHILE I WAS IN THE OTHER ROOM WITH THE REPAIRMAN! TAKE A LOOK SOMEBODY!

IT SURE WAS THERE, JED! HOW'D YOU KNOW?

THE CLOCK TOLD ME, OF COURSE! NOTICE HOW DIFFERENTLY HE SOUNDS, NOW THAT THE SACK ISN'T INSIDE HIM? SURE--HE TOLD ME!

CUCKOO CUCKOO

CUCKOO

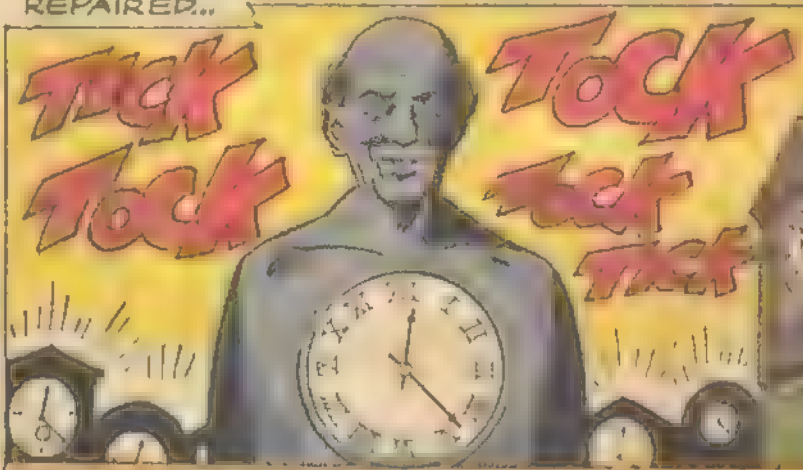
LATER, WHEN THE DIRECTOR APPEARS...

LISTEN TO THEM TELLING ME THEY FORGIVE ME FOR WANTING TO HURT THEM... THAT THEY'RE STILL MY FRIENDS! I GUESS I CAN LEAVE THEM NOW--

MAYBE YOU WON'T LEAVE THEM, JED!

TICK TOCK TICK TOCK

THE DIRECTOR WAS RIGHT, FOR SHORTLY, THE FACE OF THE DAMAGED CLOCK WAS REPAIRED...



AND IF YOU GO TO THE MUSEUM TODAY, YOU'LL SEE OLD JED STILL THERE AMONG HIS CLOCKS, WHERE HE'LL STAY FOREVER!

TICK TOCK TICK TOCK

STATEMENT REQUIRED BY THE ACT OF AUGUST 24, 1912, AS AMENDED BY THE ACTS OF MARCH 3, 1933, JULY 2, 1946 AND JUNE 11, 1960 (74 STAT. 208) SHOWING THE OWNERSHIP, MANAGEMENT, AND CIRCULATION OF HOUSE OF SECRETS, published bi-monthly at Sparta, Illinois, for October 1, 1962.

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5. The average number of copies of each issue of this publication, sold or distributed, through the mails or otherwise, to paid subscribers during the 12 months preceding the date shown above was: 165,000.

J. S. Liebowitz, Business Manager

Sworn to and subscribed before me this 20th day of September, 1962.

Daniel Epstein, Notary Public  
(My commission expires March 30, 1963)



104

KINGS

Knights



**\$1.49**  
ONLY postpaid

**A GLORIOUS SET OF PLASTIC TOYS EVERY CHILD WILL BE PLEASED TO OWN!**

Comes in two separate armies . . . the **BLACK KNIGHTS** and the **WHITE KNIGHTS**! Form your own battle lines! Every fight a delight! Fun for everyone in the family!

Comes in Treasure Chest box in which to store your toys away! You must be satisfied or your money refunded in full!



## Here's What You Get

- 4 Kings on horseback with swords
- 12 Knights in armor on horseback with Pikes
- 12 Knights on horseback with Banners
- 4 Buglers on foot
- 12 Knights on horseback with battle axes
- 20 Footsoldiers with Maces and side swords
- 20 Footsoldiers with swords and shields
- 20 Footsoldiers with long bows



**TREASURE CHEST CASE**



104 Kings Knights DA-2  
Carle Place, L. I., N. Y.

No C.O.D.'s

Gentlemen:

I am enclosing \$1.49 for each set of Knights. Kindly rush these to me. If not satisfied, I may return them for full refund.

PRINT NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_

Canadian and Foreign orders: send \$1.98 International Postal Money Order with order.

# 147 FAMOUS AUTOMOBILES



## Here's A Complete List of Cars You Get

1915 Buick	1940 Mercury
1916 Apperson	1941 Plymouth
1917 Oakland	1942 Lincoln
1918 Baker Electric	1943 Nash
1919 Franklin	1944 Willys Jeep
1920 Chevrolet	1945 DeSoto
1921 Case	1946 Dodge
1922 Mercer	1947 Kaiser
1923 Stearns	1948 Ford
1924 Chandler	1949 Hudson
1925 Locomobile	1950 Chrysler
1926 Cleveland	1951 Nash
1927 Jordan	1952 Plymouth
1928 Kissel	1953 Mercury
1929 Auburn	1954 Chrysler
1930 Cord	1955 Lincoln
1931 Durant	1956 Dodge
1932 Essex	1957 DeSoto
1933 Dodge	1958 Ford
1934 LaFayette	Thunderbird
1935 Cadillac	1959 Rambler
1936 Terraplane	1960 Valiant
1937 Hupmobile	1961 Willys
1938 Ford	1962 Chevrolet
1939 Packard	1963 Rambler



**KIDS!** Here's the greatest assortment of famous cars from Grandpa's days to today! Yes, a model car for each year from 1915 thru 1963! And there's 3 each, of each model so that you can trade them and save them! **EACH MODEL HAS THE NAME OF THE AUTOMOBILE AND YEAR ON IT** — each on its own base, 49 different models, 147 pieces to the set. Made of pure plastic styrene. Fun for you and the whole family. Comes in a garage box for storage when not in use! Send \$2.49 money order or check with coupon. Satisfaction guaranteed or your money refunded. No C.O.D.'s please!

Comes packed in this special garage box in which to store your models!

Only  
**\$2.49**

## MAIL COUPON TODAY!

Auto Models, Dept. 31  
Carle Place, L.I., N.Y.

No C.O.D.'s

Gentlemen:

Please send immediately full set of 147 auto models. I enclose \$2.49. If not satisfied I may return for full refund.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_

ZONE \_\_\_\_\_

STATE \_\_\_\_\_

Canadian and Foreign orders: \$2.98 International Money Order with coupon.



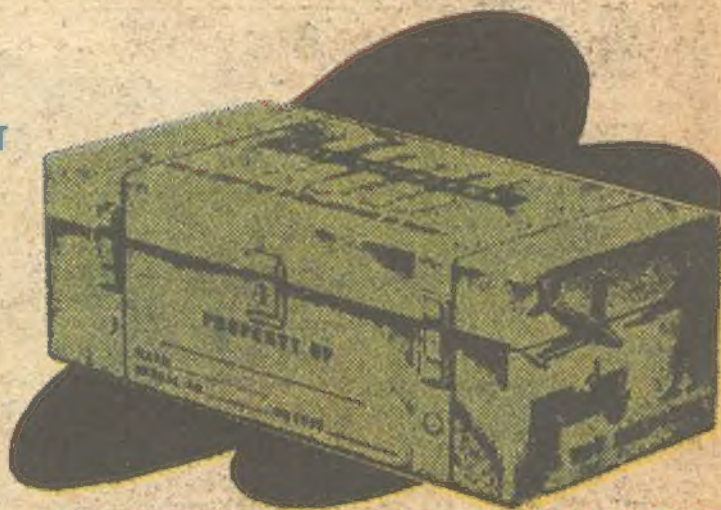
# 100 Toy Soldiers \$1.25



**100 TOY SOLDIERS, MADE OF DURABLE PLASTIC,  
EACH ON ITS OWN BASE, MEASURING UP TO 4 1/2"!!**

- ★ FUN TO SHOW
- ★ FUN TO TRADE
- ★ FUN TO COLLECT

**PACKED in this FOOTLOCKER**  
TOY STORAGE BOX



## EACH FOOTLOCKER CONTAINS:

- |                  |              |
|------------------|--------------|
| 4 Tanks          | 8 Officers   |
| 4 Jeeps          | 8 Waves      |
| 4 Battleships    | 8 Wacs       |
| 4 Cruisers       | 4 Bombers    |
| 4 Sailors        | 4 Trucks     |
| 4 Riflemen       | 8 Jet Planes |
| 8 Machinegunners | 8 Cannon     |
| 8 Sharpshooters  | 4 Bazookamen |
| 4 Infantrymen    | 4 Marksmen   |

**100 TOY SOLDIERS,  
Dept. TNC43  
Carle Place, L.I., N.Y.**

HERE'S MY \$1.25!

NO C.O.D.'s

Rush the TOY SOLDIERS TO ME!

Name.....

Address.....

City..... State.....

Canada and foreign orders send \$1.50 postal money order.



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AT NO COST TO YOU!  
OR A BIG 50¢ PROFIT  
FOR EACH BOX YOU SELL



**MARLIN .22 WITH 4X SCOPE**  
Sell Only 48 Boxes



**DAISY MODEL 1894 RIFLE**  
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**IT'S EASY TO SELL OUR BEAUTIFUL CARDS FOR ONLY \$1.25 PER BOX**

## JOIN THE ORIGINAL J.S.C.A. Get Your Prizes this Fast, Easy Way!

It's easy to earn these valuable prizes when you become a member of Junior Sales Club. Cards are sent to you on credit. YOU DO NOT PAY IN ADVANCE! Selling these lovely All Occasion Cards is amazingly easy. You sell each box of 21 beautiful cards for the low price of only \$1.25. All your friends, relatives and neighbors will be delighted with such fine cards at such a reasonable price. Many members have earned a prize in only a few hours. IF YOU WISH, YOU MAY KEEP AS YOUR PRIZE, 50¢ FOR EACH BOX YOU SELL. The first thing to do is pick out the prize you want. Then simply fill out the reply card with your name and address and mail it in. We will immediately send you 12 boxes of cards. (If prize requires more than 12 boxes, start off with 12 boxes.) We send your cards on credit because we trust you. You have 30 days to sell your cards. All we ask is that you return prepaid by Parcel Post any boxes you cannot sell within 30 days, keeping 50¢ for each box you do sell. That's all there is to it! The J.S.C.A. Club Plan is quick and easy! MAIL YOUR COUPON NOW!



You Can Get This  
**OFFICIAL  
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BADGE**

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## JOIN J.S.C.A. ... MAIL COUPON TODAY!

**JUNIOR SALES CLUB OF AMERICA  
SPRINGFIELD 1, MASS. DEPT. NC-1**

Enroll me as a member of the J.S.C.A. and send me AT ONCE FREE Membership Card, FREE Prize Catalog, complete details on how to get valuable prizes plus a supply of 12 All Occasion Card boxes to sell.

MY NAME .....  
Address .....  
CITY ..... ZONE ..... STATE .....  
PARENT'S SIGNATURE .....



**DELUXE TENT**  
Sell Only 24 Boxes

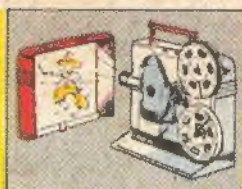


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Sell Only 36 Boxes





Complete Fishing Outfit



Movie Projector



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Take your choice of these wonderful prizes. They can be yours—quickly, easily. Most prizes shown here and many more in our Big Prize Book are given **WITHOUT COST** for selling just one 50-pack order of American Vegetable and Flower Seeds at 15c a pack. Some of the larger prizes require more sales or extra money as explained in the Big Prize Book.

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Everybody wants American Seeds. They're fresh and ready to grow. You'll sell them quickly to family, friends and neighbors. Many boys and girls sell their packs in one day. You can too—and get your prize at once. Or, if you want money instead of a prize, keep \$2.50 for every 50-pack order you sell. Mail coupon today for your first order of American Seeds and Big Prize Book—give the other coupon to a friend.

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Dept. 303  
Lancaster, Pa.  
OUR 45th YEAR



### MAIL ONE COUPON TODAY Give the Other to a Friend

AMERICAN SEED CO., Dept. 303, Lancaster, Pa.

Please send me your Big Prize Book and one order of 50 packs of American Seeds. I'll sell them at 15c a pack, send you the money and choose my prize. Send seeds checked.

☐ All Flower Seeds

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Town \_\_\_\_\_

State \_\_\_\_\_

AMERICAN SEED CO., Dept. 303, Lancaster, Pa.

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☐ All Flower Seeds

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